AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   Claim 1 (currently amended):   An information processing terminal which is connected

2   onto a network to which a plurality of additional information processing terminals are connected,

3   and transmits a signal when it acquires a transmission privilege on the network, comprising:

4   a bus status detecting means for detecting whether said network is busy or idle;

5   a counting means for repeating count-up to reach [[a]] an idle time unit if the network is idle

6   as a detected result of said bus status detecting means, ~~wherein a node ID of said information~~

7   ~~processing terminal is set to be equal to a default node ID0~~;

8   a control means for setting a node ID of said information processing terminal to be equal to

9   a default node ID0, for managing a parameter incremented whenever the idle time unit is detected

10   as a result of count-up by said counting means, for creating a transmission frame with said node ID

11   and without transmission data when transmission data is not present and said parameter is equal to

12   said node ID of said information processing terminal, and for creating a transmission frame with said

13   node ID and with transmission data when transmission data is present and said parameter is equal

14   to said node ID of said information processing terminal; and

15   a transmitting means for transmitting the transmission frame created by said control means.

1   Claim 2 (previously presented):   An information processing terminal according to claim

2   1, further comprising a receiving means for receiving the transmission frame,

3   wherein said transmission frame transmitted from one of said additional information

4   processing terminals connected to said network includes the default node ID0, and

5   said control means extracts the default node ID0 included in the transmission frame received

6   by said receiving means and updates said parameter to said default node ID0.

1   Claim 3 (previously presented):   An information processing terminal according to claim

2   2, further comprising a synchronizing error detecting means for detecting within its own terminal

3   an error which affects the synchronization with said one of said additional information processing

4   terminals on said network and relates to counting of said parameter,

5   wherein when the error is detected by said synchronizing error detecting means, said control

6   means sets said node ID of said information processing terminal to be equal to a sum of said default

7   node ID0 and a maximum node number n, and thereafter when said transmission frame is normally

8   received by said receiving means, said control means updates said parameter to said default node ID0

9   included in said transmission frame.

1   Claim 4 (previously presented):   An information processing terminal according to one

2   of claims 1 to 3, having a transmission privilege providing system wherein a transmission privilege

3   is provided to each of said information processing terminal and said plurality of additional

4   information processing terminals one at a time.

1   Claim 5 (currently amended):   A method for providing a transmission privilege to each

2   of a plurality of nodes one at a time, said plurality of nodes being connected on a network,

3   comprising the steps to be carried out by each of said nodes of:

4   detecting whether said network is busy or idle,

5   repeating count-up to reach an idle time unit if said network is idle, [[and]]

6   incrementing a parameter whenever said idle time is detected;

7   transmitting [[the]] a transmission frame inclusive of the node ID and transmission data when

8   transmission data is present and [[if]] said parameter agree agrees with the node ID; and

9   transmitting a transmission frame with the node ID and without transmission data when

10   transmission data is not present and said parameter agrees with the node ID; and

11   extracting said node ID included in said transmission frame when said transmission frame

12   is received from the network and updating said parameter to said node ID.

1   Claim 6 (currently amended):   A computer-readable transmission privilege acquisition

2   program loaded in a node which can transmit a signal onto a network to which a plurality of nodes

3   are connected when each node acquires a transmission privilege, said program causing a computer

4   to execute:

5   processing of detecting whether said network is busy or idle;

6   processing of repeatedly counting to reach [[a]] an idle time unit if said network is idle;

7   processing of incrementing a parameter whenever said idle time is detected, thereby creating

8   a transmission frame inclusive of the node ID and transmission data when transmission data is

9   present and [[if]] said parameter agree agrees with the node ID[[;]] , and creating a transmission

10   frame with the node ID and without transmission data when transmission data is not present and said

11   parameter agrees with the node ID; and

12   processing of transmitting the transmission frame thus created.

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